CEREMONY OF DEDICATION

for the

OAK LAKE AREA VETERANS MONUMENT

Honouring men and women

who have served in uniform

in wars and peacekeeping

since 1885.

Oak Lake Branch No. 79,

The Royal Canadian Legion

DECORATION DAY,

Sunday, 6 June 2004

(the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy by the Allied Expeditionary Forces)

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

2.20 P.M. – observers are requested to be seated.
Seating of dignitaries.
Introduction: Branch President
Marching on the Colours – Legion Zone 22 and Legion visitors.
O CANADA – Karyn Penner and The Sandhill Singers
Prayer for the Navy – St. Alban's Anglican Church
Prayer for the Army – Westman Community Church
Prayer for the Air Force – Oak Lake Berean Church
Address – Branch President
Unveiling – Branch Members
Prayer of Dedication – Oak Lake Mennonite Church
LAST POST
2 minutes silence
REVEILLE
Act of Remembrance – Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
Placing of wreaths
Closing Prayer – Oak Lake United Church
ROYAL ANTHEM – Karyn Penner and The Sandhill Singers
Marching off the Colours

Mix and Mingle

Refreshments

Wreath Laying

The Royal Canadian Legion – Cde John Villers, representing Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command President

Canadian Citizens – to be advised

The Canadian Forces – An officer representing the Commander of Canadian Forces Base Shilo

Veterans – Cde Ed Page, Branch Member

Sea, Army and Air Cadets – No. 2528 RCACC XII Manitoba Dragoons Cadet Corps

The Youth of Oak Lake – Katie Sigurdson and Brenda Masson, Principal, Oak Lake Community School

Church Readers

Anglican – Alice Harrison
Berean – Mike Boorman
Mennonite – Rev. Jake Sawatsky
Roman Catholic – Bob Findlay
United – Jean McQuarrie
Westman Community – to be advised

Brief History

In 1882, a tent and shanty settlement at Flat Creek was the staging base for the Westward construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. By 1885, the evolving town of Oak Lake provided ten volunteer soldiers and teamsters for the North-West Canada Field Force. The South African campaign of 1899-1902 saw eight Oak Lake soldiers volunteer. For both the First World War of 1914-1918 and the Second World War of 1939-1945, this area provided more than 200 men and women to serve in uniform. The Korean War of 1950-1953, the Persian Gulf War of 1990-1991, and many peacekeeping missions in many countries since 1947 have seen the service of Oak Lake area residents. A total of about 550 have thus served – a triumph for a small rural community.

Immense gratitude is extended to all who have given of research, time, funds and labour to this monument.

Special Thanks to the Oak Lake Lions Club for providing seating.